(b) if so, the details of the mandate proposed to be given to the said authority;

(c) the likely benefit to be derived from the operation of the said body; and

(d) by when, the said authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister in his Independence Day Speech on 15th August, 2005 had announced the setting up a National Rainfed Area Authority to focus on the problems of farmers in the dry land areas to usher in a new green revolution. A Brainstorming meeting was held on 15th February, 2006 in the Planning Commission with eminent persons and Government Departments to discuss the structure, composition and functions of the National Rainfed Area Authority.

Policy on water management

1622. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a policy on water management with a view to preserve water resources in the country, both, for drinking and irrigation purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Separate policy on water management has not been framed by the Ministry of Water Resources. However, the National Water Policy (2002) addresses the water management issues, particularly in respect of preservation of water resources, both, for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Completion of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

1623. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various major, minor and medium irrigation projects under construction as on date in the tribal areas of various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, indicating the capacity, and estimated cost, cost escalation and time overrun, if any, project-wise; and